

FAST FACTS: Women & 2006 Election Results

NH Commission on the Status of Women

U.S. Congress (as of 11.28.06. Does not include 1 run-off, 1 recount, 1 pending legal action)

A record number of women will serve in the 110th Congress, including the historic election win of Carol Shea-Porter as New Hampshire's first female federal delegate.

109th Congress: 14 female Senators; 68 female House Representatives

110th Congress: 16 female Senators; 71 female House Representatives

New Hampshire Executive Council

The Executive Council, called by some the "fourth branch of NH government," exerts powerful influence. Its duties include appointments to boards, commissions, the judiciary, and the heads of departments. The first female Executive Councilor, Dudley Dudley, was elected in 1977 and served until 1985. While the 2006 election broke no new records for the number of women serving on the Council, the number remained stable from 2004, demonstrating the public's confidence in women's leadership in this powerful role.

2004: 2 female Executive Councilors out of 5 seats total = 40%

2006: 2 female Executive Councilors out of 5 seats total = 40%

New Hampshire State Senate

A record number of women will serve in the State Senate for the upcoming legislative session, fully doubling their representation.

2004: 5 female State Senators elected of 24 total seats = 20.8%

2006: 10 female State Senators elected of 24 total seats = 41.6%

16 female candidates ran, with 10 women elected = 62.5% success rate

Senate President: Senator Sylvia Larsen

New Hampshire House of Representatives

A record number of women will serve in the State House of Representatives for the upcoming legislative session, increasing their numbers by 22.

2004: 124 female State Representatives elected of 400 total seats = 31%

2006: 146 female State Representatives elected of 400 total seats = 36.5%

220 female candidates ran, with 146 women elected = 66.3% success rate

Speaker of the House: Representative Terie Norelli

New Hampshire General Court

In 2007, a record number of women will serve in the New Hampshire General Court (Senate and House).

2004: 129 women elected of a total of 424 seats = 30.4%

2006: 156 women elected of a total of 424 seats = 36.7%

236 female candidates ran, with 156 women elected = 66% success rate

Historical trends and future potential

The previous record for New Hampshire women in the state legislature was in 1993, when women comprised 33.5% of the General Court (9 Senators and 133 Representatives).

In 2007, Democratic women will far outnumber Republican women serving in the state legislature, with 9 Democratic Senators and 1 Republican Senator; 98 Democratic Representatives, 39 Republican Representatives, and 9 Democrat/Republican Representatives. This is in sharp contrast to the 1980s. For example, in 1986, 96 female Republicans and 44 female Democrats held seats in the General Court (7 female Republican and 0 female Democratic Senators, and 89 female Republican and 44 female Democrat Representatives).